

JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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TOM LYTHGOE, CHAIR

CHUCK NOTBOHM

KEN WEBER

**PROCEEDING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON, STATE OF MONTANA
August 15, 2006**

Present: commissioners Lythgoe, Notbohm, and Weber; Harold Stepper, County Planner; Tom Harrington, Tom Jenkin, Celia Wolney

REPORTS

Receipt of July cash reports from treasurer.

CALENDAR REVIEW

- 8/16 meet with Elkhorn Mine officials - 9 a.m.
Library board - 1 p.m.
JLDC - Boulder Townhall - 2 p.m.
- 8/17 CTAC - 8 a.m.
Meeting regarding budget issues - 10:30 a.m.
Groundbreaking for South Helena interchange - 3 p.m.
RMDC - 3:30 p.m.
- 8/22 meeting with Extension - Whitehall - 9 a.m.

COMMISSION REPORTS

PAINT THE STATE AWARDS CEREMONY

Commissioner Lythgoe stated that he was at the Capitol rotunda of the previous Wednesday to attend the Paint the State awards ceremony. There was a huge attendance and this project was very successful.

HEADWATERS RETREAT

Commissioner Weber stated that he attended the Headwaters retreat the past two days. The focus of the retreat was housing needs and how they impact economic development. Tara Mastel was also there, and the JLDC is taking this on as a priority. He stated that this was a very worthwhile retreat.

RMDC

August 15, 2006 minutes.wpd

Commissioner Notbohm reported that he attended a meeting at RMDC the previous Thursday. They discuss the problems with the Big Boulder Project. They have been very successful with these types of projects in the past, but they are having problems with this one. There are two pots of money from HUD, who is usually easy to get along with. To qualify for a new loan, the need to guarantee payment of the original loan. HUD sets the rental amounts and there is very little left over to pay back the loan. Commissioner Notbohm stated that they will be contacting congressmen and senators for support with putting pressure on HUD. Commissioner Weber stated that it appears that Boulder and Whitehall are on the blacklist for community funds; not so much on a blacklist, but a not preferred area. The Big Boulder apartments have low occupancy. Commissioner Notbohm stated that the buildings are at a point in life that they need to be redone but there is a question of what to do with the people who live there during the reconstruction. Employees at the meth treatment facility as well as others in town need housing. Commissioner Lythgoe asked percentage of occupancy. Commissioner Notbohm stated that it is around 60%. Commissioner Lythgoe stated that a letter needs to be written. Commissioner Notbohm said that he will have Tara touch base with RMDC.

SUBDIVISION REVIEW

REQUEST FOR TIME EXTENSION - SUNLIGHT INDUSTRIAL PARK MAJOR SUBDIVISION

Harold Stepper, County Planner, presented his staff report. He stated that he received a letter from the JLDC requesting a one-year extension due to the architecture and engineering study taking longer than planned. He recommended that the extension be granted. Commissioner Lythgoe moved to grant a one-year time extension. Commissioner Notbohm seconded, and asked if they have made any progress in acquiring the lease. Commissioner Lythgoe stated that they met with Barrick the previous week. He noted that the lease has a finite time-line, 40 years with two five-year extensions possible. They need to work out what happens at the end of 50 years. Commissioner Notbohm have to the lease is made to. Tom Harrington answered that it is made to the JLDC. Commissioner Notbohm asked about the time line. Tom stated that they hope to have the A and E report back in 30 to 45 days. The motion carried.

ITEMS FOR COMMISSIONERS ACTION OR REVIEW

SIGN MOU WITH MONTANA WOOLGROWERS FOR PREDATOR CONTROL

A Memorandum of Understanding with the Montana wool growers was presented for signature. Commissioner Weber moved to enter into the MOU with the Montana wool growers and to grant the Chairman Commission to sign the agreement. Commissioner Notbohm seconded. The motion carried.

METAL MINES GRANT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Tom Harrington and Tom Jenkin presented the recommendation of the metal mines committee. The committee received four grant applications competing for the \$34,000 available. The grant request totaled \$53,300. Applications were received from the Whitehall Skate Park, Whitehall Chamber, Pool Pals, and 3 Rivers Park. Tom Harrington briefly outlined each grant application.

Pool Pals has their project underway, and is slated to open next summer. They had a \$100,000

shortfall and received a loan from the bank. They continue to do fund-raisers and recently received \$15,000 from Golden Sunlight. They are requesting \$35,000. Commissioner Notbohm stated that the original award said that they would use the money at the end of the project. The fear was that they would start the project cannot be able to complete it due to lack of funds. Commissioner Weber stated that he was not aware of the stipulation when he approved expenditure of the funds. Tom Harrington and stated that there is no shortfall, Pool Pals is fully funded. Commissioner Notbohm stated that it is a concern that a new pool is needed because they didn't take care of the pool before. Tom Harrington stated that Whitehall has passed a pool district which will take care of maintenance of the new pool.

The Whitehall skate park is a very successful program. Work is already in progress, with the concrete pad poured, the sprinkler system in, and sawed blade. The skate park has a \$10,000 shortfall and it is the committee's recommendation that they be awarded that amount. Mr. Notbohm have to will oversee this. Tom Harrington stated that this duty will fall to the city.

The Whitehall Chamber now has an active president and they're looking to do more and bring more activities to Whitehall. They would like to get an answering machine and contract with someone to come and retrieve the messages and answer information request. They've requested \$15,500 for this.

Three Rivers Park requested \$4,800 for a mapping project. The map would highlight the river and access points along it with potential camping areas from Twin Bridges to Three Forks. It is written recommendation of the committee that they be awarded \$1200 contingent on the funds only be used for map and or brochure printing costs.

Commissioner Weber moved to accept the Metal Mines Grant Committee's recommendations to award the Whitehall Skate Park \$10,000, the Whitehall Chamber \$4,800, 3 Rivers Park \$1,200, and Pool Pals \$18,000. Commissioner Notbohm seconded. On the three Rivers Park project, he at this is a worthwhile use of funds, as the area on the map a more out of Jefferson County than in. Tom stated that the committee had quite a bit of discussion regarding this; this could bring people into the area and offers a unique benefit to the area. Commissioner Weber noted that this could have one sideline benefit for search and rescue, noting that people have been lost in the river and never found. This mapping could identify danger spots. Tom Jenkin noted that it would also identified land owners. Commissioner Notbohm ask about accounting for how these monies are spent. Commissioner Weber stated that he checks all expenditures before approval to expend funds. The motion carried.

Tom Harrington stated that another item of discussion at the committee meeting is the request that the commission approves the extension of this program for two years at \$35,000 a year. The committee had considerable discussion regarding the grant program and feel that it has provided for many good projects so far.

The second recommendation from the committee stands from a letter they received from Jefferson Valley Presents. They would like to move the grant awarded to JVP over to the Veterans, who will be taking over the building. The veterans hope to continue to use the building as a community center. JVP approached the city, but they did not want to take on the

building. The veterans decided to take on the project and continue with the renovation. Commissioner Lythgoe asked if there is a specific use for the \$5,500. Tom Harrington stated that it is earmarked for repair of the back wall. Commissioner Weber noted that the transfer of the monies allows the transfer of the building to go more smoothly. Commissioner Lythgoe asked if this repair will make the building usable. Tom Harrington stated that the building has already been used for plays etc.. They have updated the bathrooms and the electrical system is good. However, the city is concerned with the age of the building.

The third recommendation from the committee is that they would like the commission to approve \$40,000 from the South's metal mines account for the JLDC. They would also recommend the same amount from the north end metal mines account. Commissioner Lythgoe stated that the Commission cannot act on this recommendation at this time. Also, he is not sure when they will release the orth end metal mines money.

Commissioner Weber moved to accept recommendations one and two. Commissioner Lythgoe seconded. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION 26-2006 AMEND RESOLUTION 10-1999 REORGANIZATION OF THE SOLID WASTE BOARD

Commissioner Lythgoe stated that this resolution will be tabled for two weeks.

DISCUSS RESPONSE TO PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY AS RELATED TO THE BEAVERHEAD-DEERLODGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Commissioner Weber stated that the management plan presented by Sun Mountain and their partners has been getting a lot of response. Currently there is about a 50-50 split among those who responded. Jefferson County has not yet made a formal response, and they need to discuss if they indeed want to make a formal response. Commissioner Notbohm stated that he spoke with had Kaufman from Madison County earlier in the day and told him that we would be formulating a full response. Ted asked for a copy as they are also dealing with this. This will have a greater negative impact on Madison County than any of counties involved. Commissioner Weber stated that they're been positive responses from those counties that would have increased logging. Madison County is very against the plan, and they would like to stay with alternate five which had much discussion and input. The Sun Mountain proposal came in late and calls for a lot of new wilderness area in Madison County.

Commissioner Lythgoe noted that Jefferson County is working with Ed Handl regarding mining recommendations. He feels that they also need to have a person to help Ed with mining issues and also with forest and road issues. Commissioner Notbohm stated that Granite County is so hungry for revenue that they are willing to sell their soul to the devil for a one-time shot at some revenue. Commissioner Weber stated that people need to remember that even have an area is okayed for timber harvest, there's no guarantee that trees will ever be cut due to environmental protest.

Commission Lythgoe asked about the status of the letter to Duane Harp. Commissioner Weber stated that it has been drafted and Matt has edited it. He has been spending time with the law books to correct his mistakes then he will give the letter to the Commissioners and Matt for

review.

Commissioner Notbohm stated that there are signs going on in the Park Lake area not to remove material from the roads. Commissioner Weber also noted that he is getting calls regarding the Bigfoot Mine Road, that the Commission denied closure of last year, stating that there are signs up that indicate the road is closed. Commissioner Lythgoe stated that they need to get a person on board as soon as possible. Celia Wolny stated that it sounds like this could be costly, maybe even go to court, and asked if the Commission is willing to do this. Commissioner Lythgoe stated that they are. It will be more costly if we do not expend the funds to fix this now.

MEETING ADJOURNED

ATTEST:

BONNIE RAMEY
CLERK AND RECORDER

TOMAS E. LYTHGOE, CHAIR

CHUCK NOTBOHM, COMMISSIONER

KEN WEBER, COMMISSIONER